



City Line

F L O R I S T

2978 Nichols Ave Trumbull, Ct 06611 378-7375 800-719-7673

www.citylineflorist.com

Quality Flowers with Outstanding Service Since 1918

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Carl F Roehrich, president of City Line Florist, Inc, 2978 Nichols Ave, Trumbull, Ct 06611. We have been an employer in the State of Connecticut since 1918. We do provide sick days to our staff as well as contributing towards their group health and dental plans.

It is not the time to add to the financial burden of small business. Connecticut has lost 34,000 businesses in the past year alone. Small businesses do not have the luxury to make risky decisions or be forced to provide benefits as the Federal nor State governments will not be there to bail us out!

Passage of this bill will cause many more Connecticut Businesses to close their doors. Many are just hanging on awaiting the economy to turn around. Many business owners I have talked to tell me they wonder just "how deep can they dig the financial hole and still be able to climb out"

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave.

Even with prudent business practices, we are struggling to keep our company financially healthy and to survive this crisis. Fortunately have been successful. However, to do this our company owners have taken pay cuts and our employees have lost all of their overtime.

I strongly feel **a bill that you should consider is a Seasonal Employee Proposal**. This would allow employers to hire seasonal employees during peak time without the burden of unemployment penalties. The key this would be the knowledge upfront before hiring that the employment would be for a certain length of time only. We used to employ seasonal workers, especially customers who were unemployed, until we started to get hit by unemployment claims.

This is even when the worker told their caseworker that they knew ahead of time and were appreciate of the help we gave them. Taxes were paid and help was given to those who otherwise would have had no extra income. This has caused us to stop employing seasonal workers.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut.

Thank you.

Carl F Roehrich
February 03, 2009